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BRIEF PARAGRAPHS.—"*Multum in Parvo.*"

—The U. S. Secretary of War has issued a stringent order relative to the absence of officers and privates from their regiments and duties, requiring all who are fit for service to return to their posts, under pain of being treated as deserters, annulling leaves of absence and furloughs, and declaring that those whose health permits them to visit places of amusement, or walk about cities and towns, will be considered as fit for duty, and treated accordingly; a commissioner is appointed to superintend the execution of this order in the respective States; the U. S. Marshals, in the respective districts, the Mayor and Chief of Police of any town or city, the sheriffs of the respective counties in each State, all postmasters and justices of the peace, are authorized to act as special provost marshals, to arrest any officer or private soldier, fit for duty, who may be found absent from his command without just cause, and convey him to the nearest military post or depot.—Gold was quoted in New York yesterday at 114½; Virginia sixes advanced ½; the stock market was more lively.—Rev. Mr. Hirst, of the M. E. Church, is very ill in Washington.—The Southern bells, captured at New Orleans and sent to Boston, have been sold in the latter city at auction; they brought about \$30,000.—A heavy peach crop in Delaware is expected.—It is said that recruiting is going on rapidly in the city of New York.—The machine shop of the Virginia Central railroad, lately removed to Shadwell, has been re-established in Richmond.—The Washington Republican, ultra Republican organ, has articles headed "Drive them out," advocating the "hanging, imprisonment or exile of those who will not take the oath of allegiance;" "drive them out," it says, "the men without ceremony, the women and children a little more tenderly—but drive them all out."—Lord Palmerston said, in his late speech in the British House of Commons, that there is no instance in history of a contest of such magnitude between two nations of the same people, as that now going on in this country.—The negro arrested in Washington for wantonly stabbing cows and horses, has been tried and found guilty.—The correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer, writing from Warrenton, reports that Gen. Pope's army has advanced beyond that place.—The Maryland News Sheet has been suppressed in Norfolk and Portsmouth.—\$2,000 worth of quinine has been seized in Norfolk.—Capt. Fitzgerald, of New York, is now the provost marshal at Culpeper Court House.—The Federal army, in Culpeper, is encamped within a short distance of Mr. W. D. Wallach's farm, which has not been confiscated by the Confederates, as was reported.—It is reported that some sailors connected with the U. S. transports, have been recently fired

upon, within a few miles of Portsmouth, by persons concealed in the bushes.—Surgeons from Gen. McClellan's army report that the health of the troops is improving.—Two girls dressed in soldier's clothes have been detected in the ranks of the army at Culpeper Court House; they were from Washington county, Md., and had followed their lovers.

Information has reached the U. S. Navy Department of the capture of two vessels, up Chipokas creek, James river, near Claremont, by an expedition sent out by Commodore Wilkes.

The number of sick and wounded soldiers in the various hospitals in Washington (including the Confederate sick and wounded, most of whom are at Cliffburne Hospital) is 3,238; in hospital at Georgetown, 257; at Alexandria, 1,557; at Falls Church, 213; at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Eastern Branch, 123; at Fairfax Seminary, 1,155; and at the Hospital for eruptive diseases, at Kalorama, 26; making a total of 6,604.

Gov. Tod, of Ohio, has decided that after the 15th of August he will pay no more bounties. If there shall be a deficiency of volunteers then, it will be made up by draft, without bounty.

On Saturday, at the request of the Governor of Iowa, in order to reach persons who are discouraging enlistments, he was authorized by the Secretary of War to make a draft whenever and wherever he should think proper.

Quite a number of volunteer officers and men have arrived in Washington from New York for the war. They include one brigadier general, two majors, one lieutenant-colonel, about forty company officers and a number of privates.

The steamer Cuba arrived at Mobile from Havana, 20th, after an exciting chase by the blockaders. She brings a cargo of arms, munitions of war, medicines and blankets.

Some young men in bathing in the lake, near Chicago, the other day, had rare sport riding a drove of horses brought down to water. The sport grew rarer, when one of the youths found himself naked on a runaway animal, who took him through the streets of the city, regardless of his want of attire, or of the astonished looks of the citizens, who thought him Lord Godiva on a bender.

Captain Gibson, of the U. S. Artillery, commanding at Fort Delaware, is relieved by Major Burton, to enable him to take command, as Colonel, of the One-hundred-and-twelfth Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, or Second Pennsylvania Artillery, to which he has been appointed by Gov. Curtin. This regiment—which is considered by the various general officers in whose command it has been one of the best in the service—is now garrisoning the forts around the Capitol.

A war meeting is to be held at Washington, at which President Lincoln will be invited to preside.

During the progress of a trial at Troy, New York, on Tuesday last, an altercation, exciting and undignified in its nature, took place between the presiding justice and one of the counsel of the parties. The Judge seized an inkstand and hurled it at the head of the confounding "limb of the law," who luckily escaped harm. The ink, however, took effect on the shawl and dress of the aforesaid counsel's client, rendering it unfit for use. An officer, who was present, was directed by the judge to arrest the lawyer, but replied by stating that somebody else ought to be arrested first.

The New York correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer says:—"The meeting to organize the much talked of 'Merchant's Brigade,' in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce, turned out a failure. Only half a dozen people were present, exclusive of the newspaper reporters. The chairman said he thought the merchants must all be out of town, and an adjournment was accordingly ordered until such time as it may please the said merchants to return.

An arrival from New Orleans states that Gen. Butler had ordered that all negroes sent by their masters to the Confederate army and who leave and join the Federals be regarded as emancipated. The masters had endeavored in many cases to reclaim them. Gen. Butler, in a note to Reverdy Johnson, says that no merchandise, whether cotton or sugar, will, in any event, be seized or confiscated by the United States authorities there. T. H. Farish, agent of the Rothschilds in New Orleans had committed suicide. A number of persons had been arrested for attempting to assassinate Thos. F. Burbank & Brother, among whom was Andre Delende, brother-in-law of John Slidell and General Beauregard. The price of flour had fallen to \$16 per bbl.

The latest foreign advices do not indicate any movements of an official character on the part of European governments having reference to intervention in American affairs.

A dispatch from Washington says:—"It is a subject of general remark that but few army officers are now seen in the streets and at the hotels. Either from a sense of duty or otherwise, a number have returned to the discharge of their public duties—a movement which has not elicited censure in any quarter."

By recent advices from Constantinople it appears that the jealousies between the Latin and Greek churches, about repairing the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, the pretext of the late Crimean war, have subsided. The Porte by right of jurisdiction, Russia as protector of the Greek church, and France of the Latin, have combined their patronage, and the works are now going forward under the supervision of an Armenian architect.

General Mitchel will probably go to Cincinnati soon, and will not at present have a command in the army.